

Mr. Torrez earned the right to represent the United States as a super heavyweight boxer at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. His years of disciplined training were evident from his first fight, becoming the first American to vie for the super heavyweight gold medal since Riddick Bowe in 1988 at the Seoul Olympic Games. He made the United States proud by earning the silver medal.

Through his accomplishments, Mr. Torrez brought great pride to his hometown. Hundreds of people gathered in various places in Tulare to watch his fights. Signs supporting him were placed on most streets. He joins two other Tulare residents, Bob Mathias and Sim Inness, as the city's Olympic medalists.

All of America is proud of Richard Torrez Jr. His impact on U.S. boxing and his Central Valley community will be long remembered.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST
AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND
RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING
THE TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as tomorrow marks the 20th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers. The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

Twenty years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms. And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives. Madam Speaker, I watched as the first, and then the second, plane flew into the World Trade Center and was horrified when the buildings came down.

I was in The Capitol and saw the billowing smoke from the wreckage at the Pentagon and was told about the missing third plane that met its fiery end in the empty fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania thanks to the selfless act of patriotic and heroic Americans. But

as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11. On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world. Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang "God Bless America"; lit candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders. In the days ahead I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks and became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9-11 never again happens in America. A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that "[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done." And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty. And Americans want peace. Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe. Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed twenty years ago tomorrow. We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives. And we have an obligation to them to ensure that this nation—and its 241 year record of, and experiment in, democracy—shall long endure and can and will withstand any threat from foreign adversaries or home-grown domestic terrorists.

This nation, as with any nation, suffers the conceit that it is immune from attacks from within on its democratic pillars at its peril, as we learned tragically on January 6, 2021. On that now unforgettable winter day, a violent mob invited by the then-president of the United States came to Washington, D.C. and laid siege to the Capitol for the avowed purpose of disrupting the constitutionally-mandated Joint Meeting of Congress to confirm the votes of presidential electors and announce publicly to the nation and the world the persons elected as President and Vice President of the United States.

As a result of the mayhem instigated by the 45th president, the congressional meeting was delayed for several hours, at least six persons

lost their lives as a result of the insurrection, more than 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of which required hospitalization and dozens, if not hundreds, of officers will suffer in years to come with post-traumatic stress disorder and cope with coronavirus infections contracted from the unmasked domestic terrorists and rioters who stormed the Capitol.

All of this is more than enough to sound the warning bell that we are now engaged, as President Lincoln observed at Gettysburg, in a great contest testing the proposition that this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal can long endure. This illustrates the reason why it is so vital that we enact legislation to strengthen and fortify the foundation of our democracy, which is of course the right to vote and to have that vote counted. To do that, we must enact without delay H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and H.R. 1, the For The People Act. The right to vote is the sine qua non of democratic citizenship; without it every other right is fleeting and temporary.

That is why it is important to remember that the true and fundamental purpose of the Voting Rights Act was to give proof to the world that America was living the true meaning of its creed that all are created equal and doing so by protecting and empowering black Americans, who had for two centuries been exploited, victimized, persecuted, scapegoated, cheated, and treated with both benign and malignant neglect all because they were excluded from participating in the political process and the making of decisions that affected their lives.

It is interesting to note the absence of the current frantic efforts to disenfranchise black voters and other persons of color had no antecedent in 1994, when unexpectedly Republicans won the House majority for the first time in 40 years and majorities in several state legislatures across the country. Nor did it happen after the 2010 elections when Republicans recaptured the House majority after holding the White House for two consecutive terms. Madam Speaker, what accounts for the lack of vote suppression action then and the desperate anti-democratic actions we see now is clear and simple.

In 1994, 27 years ago, and as recent as 11 years ago in 2010, conservative Republicans still believed they could compete for democratic political power fair and square and that their ideals, ideas, principles, and values could attract majority support. But with the demographic changes and generational replacement taking place in America, the maturation and coming of age of the beneficiaries of the Great Society, and the rise of what social and political scientist call the "Obama Coalition," they no longer believe that. So they now hold it as an article of faith that they cannot win if they do not cheat; instead of taking their ideas and arguments to the voters and letting the voters pick their leaders, they have opted to change the rules so they can handpick the voters.

In The Flight 93 Election, the controversial, provocative, call to arms, conservative essayist Michael Anton spelled out clearly the perils the antidemocracy forces feel surround them:

If you haven't noticed, our side has been losing consistently since 1988. We can win midterms, but we do nothing with them. Call ours Hannibalic victories. After the Carthaginian's famous slaughter of a Roman army at Cannae, he failed to march on an undefended Rome, prompting his cavalry commander to complain: 'you know how to win a victory, but not how to use one.' And, aside from 2004's lackluster 50.7 percent, we can't win the big ones at all.

In his 1837 Lyceum Address titled "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions," Abraham Lincoln warned that mobs or people who disrespected U.S. laws and courts would always pose the most dangerous threat to the perpetuation of United States:

All the armies of Europe and Asia . . . could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.

But Lincoln advised us of the best defense against domestic threats and attacks on our democracy: public reverence for the Constitution and rule of law as "the political religion of our nation."

Madam Speaker, democracy in America is not an act, it is an activity; it is never finished or complete but always in the process of making our union more perfect; and the nation will always be confronted with challenge of confirming the proposition that this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal can long endure.

The price of liberty is indeed eternal vigilance. But we can do this. We must do this.

After all, we are Americans.

CELEBRATING THE RUSH CITY WOMEN'S CLUB 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Minnesota's Rush City Women's Club as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of community service.

Since September of 1921, the Rush City Women's Club has carried out their mission of Community Betterment and Mutual Benefit for the club and community members.

From maintaining community parks to establishing a local library, the Rush City Women's Club has demonstrated their commitment to live out their stated mission.

Their impact on the Rush City community has been huge, and I am proud that the selfless members of this club, past and present, take the initiative to make their communities a better place to live.

The support the Rush City Women's Club has provided to schools, nursing homes, libraries, and other local organizations is truly extraordinary and cannot go unnoticed. Those willing to serve their community, in any capacity, are shining examples of what makes America an exceptional country.

The women of the Rush City Women's Club have taken great strides over the last 100 years, and I wish them another 100 years of success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING SARAH RUDDER AS MY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the incredibly resilient and athletically talented Marine Corps veteran, Sarah Rudder, as my August Constituent of the Month. As a young girl, Sarah knew she wanted to be a Marine after watching an air show and the Silent Drill Platoon perform. She accomplished her goal, but in the wake of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. her dream of a long career in the Marine Corps came to a close. While recovering bodies in the rubble of the famous building, Sarah sustained a career-ending ankle injury, forcing her to medically retire, and ultimately leading to amputation of her left leg below the knee.

Following her career-ending injury, Sarah struggled to find the purpose and commitment that she felt while serving in the military. After being medically retired from the military, Sarah volunteered as an online coach for the Catch a Lift Fund, a nonprofit that provides fitness grants, equipment, and nutrition to combat-wounded veterans. It was within this program that Sarah launched her path to competitive fitness. After chronic pain, depression, and post-traumatic stress, her fitness journey morphed into a sense of therapy, helping to ease her stress and bring back the routine and drive she missed as a Marine.

Sarah's best course of action to relieve some of the strain and pain on her body from the original injury was to have her leg amputated below the knee. With her new sense of relief and a fitted prosthetic leg, she got serious about the fitness regimen CrossFit. In 2015, Sarah tried out for the Warrior Games, an annual competition put on by the Department of Defense for wounded active-duty service members and veterans. Sarah did so well that when she returned in 2016, she qualified to compete for Team USA at that year's Invictus Games, a global competition for wounded service members that was started in 2014 by Britain's Prince Harry. During her two years competing for Team USA at Invictus, Rudder won a dozen gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter running events, along with the 1-minute sprint row, shotput, discus, swimming, seated volleyball, and power lifting.

Overcoming a life-changing injury is an incredible challenge, and I am inspired by the strength and perseverance Sarah has embodied in her recovery journey. I thank Sarah for her service to our country, for her dedication to helping other disabled veterans in similar circumstances, and her unwavering drive to be her very best. I'm proud to honor Sarah Rudder as my August Constituent of the Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD MORADO

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to

honor the significant contributions of Mr. Richard Morado, an individual that went above and beyond to serve our Latino and greater Kansas City community. Richard has not only served our greater Kansas City community but has served our country, honorably and proudly, when he joined the Navy in 1972, on an aircraft carrier. It was in the Navy and through his parent's dedication to the community that Richard found his own passion for community service.

After the Navy, Richard returned home and utilized his G.I. Bill benefits and received an associates degree from Penn Valley College, and later would graduate from Rockhurst College with a business degree. Richard has carried on the tradition of service his parents taught him at a very young age. His father Mike Morado was very active during the civil rights movements in Kansas City, as a local leader in the Hispanic community to fight for equity and justice. This vein was seared into Richard where he picks up from his father's service.

Richard joined several community organizations, serving in various capacities in several groups including: IMAGE, LULAC, the American G.I. Forum, MANA, and the COHOL Civil Rights committee. In addition, Richard has been a longtime volunteer for the local environmental nonprofit Bridging the Gap. His service has been so significant that the Greater KC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce bestowed the Carlos Cortez Humanitarian of the Year Award to him in 2006, for his contributions to Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Richard Morado for the tremendous accomplishments throughout his career and his tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with celebration of the rich Mexican American culture, thriving within our amazing City. Richard's contributions to our community have made a significant impact on the Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you to Richard.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9-11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago, our nation experienced true evil.

On a crisp Tuesday morning, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters went to work thinking it was just like any other day, not knowing in a matter of minutes that all of our lives would be changed forever.

On that fateful day, we faced grave uncertainty and an insurmountable threat to our way of life unseen in decades.

But while that day brought us immeasurable pain and suffering, it also brought us together as a nation.

It showed us that even in our darkest hour, the United States will never back down and proved again that Americans will always rise to the occasion.

As we come together to remember 20 years that have passed since this tragedy, I would like to reiterate to all those who served:

Your sacrifices and service have not and will not be forgotten. Just as we will never forget September 11, 2001, we will never forget